

1270 has not only survived, but it has thrived through the years. Current neighborhood beautification projects have magnificently transformed the setting of the building's home. 1270 faces the Harlem Meer section of New York City's Central Park and the Conservatory Gardens, which have been restored and maintained with an endowment. The on-site Museum of African Art adds a part of the building to New York's Museum Mile. Sightseeing buses now regularly stop in the neighborhood for tours.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of 1270's 50th anniversary, as we look back on the successes of the National Housing Act, we can all feel a sense of pride. For many long-time residents, the soul of this section 213 building can never be separated from its historic roots.

### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2010*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1008, to honor the contributions of Catholic schools and recognize Catholic Schools Week 2010.

Catholic schools have played an important role in the American education system. Catholic schools across our country have an excellent reputation for providing a strong academic and moral education, as well as teaching social responsibility, to the more than 2 million American students currently enrolled in Catholic schools.

The Catholic schools in my district work hard to create an environment where academic excellence and value driven pride can be fostered and embraced.

Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character and moral development.

My wife, Laurie, and I as well as our two sons, Ken and B.J., attended Northern Michigan's Catholic schools and realize the benefits of the Catholic education system.

The week of January 31 through February 6, 2010, has been designated as Catholic Schools Week by the Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This week let us pause, reflect and congratulate administrators, faculty, staff, students and parents as we celebrate the dedicated tradition of promoting education through our Catholic faith.

Catholic schools remain possible because Catholics come together through their parishes and dioceses to make a financial commitment to see this strong tradition continue.

H. Res. 1008 acknowledges the hard work and dedication that Catholic schools have contributed to building our local communities and our nation.

I am proud to co-sponsor H. Res. 1008 and support the many Catholic schools in my district and across our nation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,319,326,469,724.43.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,680,900,723,430.63 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

### IN RECOGNITION OF REELTOWN HIGH SCHOOL WINNING THE ALABAMA 2A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the Reeltown High School football team in Notasulga, Alabama, which recently won the 2009 Alabama 2A State Football Championship.

On December 4th, the Reeltown Rebels defeated Clay County High School by a score of 16-8 at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The Rebels finished the season with a record of 14-1.

The Reeltown Rebels are coached by Jackie O'Neal, and the school's principal is Tom Cochran. I'd like to congratulate the football team, coaches and high school students and staff on this outstanding achievement. All of us across Tallapoosa County and East Alabama are deeply proud of these talented young Alabamians.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, January 19, 2010.

Had I been present I would have voted "Aye" on Rollcall vote No. 6 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1004), "Aye" on Rollcall vote No. 7 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1015), "Aye" on Rollcall vote No. 8 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 991).

### A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO

#### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 20, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Army SPC Bryan C. Florence of Louisville, Kentucky, who nearly lost his life on September 2, 2007 during an IED explosion in Baghdad. Specialist Florence is a true American hero and an exceptional Kentuckian who inspires us all with his strength and sacrifice. I ask that a poem penned by Albert Caswell in honor of Specialist Florence and his family be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as follows:

#### BRYAN'S SONG

Bryan's Song . . .  
Bryan's heart, beating loud! Beating long!  
Beating strong!  
A hero's heart, which to him now so belongs!  
Army Tough! Army Strong!  
To him, that heart of a hero which so beats  
on . . .  
Belongs, to such a fine young man . . .  
Kentucky Strong . . . Bryan's Life . . . Bryan's  
Song . . .  
A Thoroughbred . . .  
Finishing first, across that finish line of life  
. . . let it now be said!  
An Army man, who so proudly wears the uniform  
. . . who so can!  
All for God and Country, and Family, he  
went off to war . . .  
Into that the darkest face of death, but were  
his great burdens bore . . .  
Leaving all that he so loved . . .  
Ready to die if necessary, is that but not  
true love . . . and Heaven is for?  
All for us, while into the face of death he  
left!  
When, on battlefields of honor seen . . .  
Dashing there so in uniform, such a heroic  
figure convened . . .  
As the hand of death would so intervene . . .  
Reaching down, beckoning him . . .  
With one leg gone, somehow he held on . . .  
All for his fine wife, and future child to be  
born . . .  
As he now must move on, as we so see his  
courage full . . . courage strong . . .  
Within his heart beating so loud, beating  
strong . . .  
Listen and learn, from this sonnet . . . his  
Bryan's Song . . .  
A song of full hope and courage . . . who  
would not be discouraged . . .  
The words, of a hero . . . all of our souls  
words has nourished . . .  
As day by day, while all of that pain and  
heartache comes his way . . .  
As we so glean, what it so takes . . . to be a  
fine human being . . .  
As against all odds, in life and death's . . . in  
all his heartbreak left . . .  
In death and war . . . he writes his score . . .  
To rebuild . . . to so instill . . . trusting In  
God's Will!  
As his fine heart will not dismay . . .  
As he so shows us all the way still . . .  
A Florence of Arabia . . .  
Who went off to the Mideast . . .  
All on his most valiant crusade, to fight for  
peace . . .  
What, words in our lives have we so written?  
Heard all here in our living!  
And, if I ever have a son . . . I but hope and  
pray!  
What songs have we so sung as to this our  
world so given?  
He could but be like this one, this day . . .  
As Bryan's sung!